



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES CONTROL COMMISSION

## STING GUIDELINES

JANUARY 2000

These guidelines are intended to provide the basic framework which will be used when conducting underage drinking stings on licensed premises.

- 1) Notification that a sting will be taking place will be made in the media prior to the start date.
- 2) The underage person taking part in the sting should reasonably look their age. Efforts to make them appear older should be avoided.
- 3) A photo of the underage person should be taken and attached to the information requested in #6.
- 4) The underage person should not be carrying identification when taking part in the sting.
- 5) The underage person should not carry any money with them other than that given by the ABCC investigator supervising them.
- 6) The underage person shall sign a release form prior to starting participation in this program. The underage person and an ABCC investigator or any other law enforcement officer should also sign and date a copy of these guidelines.
- 7) Unless circumstances warrant, the underage person shall be given a BAC test at the beginning and at the conclusion of the investigation. They should be informed of this prior to beginning the investigation.
- 8) The underage person shall enter the licensed premises under observation by an ABCC investigator and/or a law enforcement officer.
- 9) The underage person shall attempt to purchase an alcoholic beverage.
- 10) At no time shall the underage person attempt to misrepresent their age or provide any identification.
- 11) If asked for identification, the underage person should leave the establishment.
- 12) If served at an on-premise establishment, the underage person shall remain on the licensed premises for a period of time instructed by the ABCC investigator. They should then exit the licensed premises leaving the alcoholic beverages. If served at an off-premises establishment, the underage person shall carry the alcoholic beverages out to the ABCC investigator and/or law enforcement officer.
- 13) At no time, under any circumstances, shall the underage person consume any alcoholic beverage.
- 14) The safety and welfare of all underage participants will be of utmost importance to ABCC investigators and law enforcement personnel. Underage persons shall not be exposed to any unusual, unnecessary or unreasonable risk.
- 15) The underage person will not wear, exhibit or carry any ABCC or law enforcement identification or falsely represent themselves as an employee of this agency or any other law enforcement unit while participating in this program. They shall not under any circumstance carry a weapon.
- 16) ABCC investigators and law enforcement personnel should only enter the premises to observe on an as needed basis when circumstances warrant.
- 17) Notice to licensees of alleged violations will be given upon conclusion of the sting. Official notification of date, time and place of hearing.

UNDERAGE OPERATIVE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

ABCC INVESTIGATOR  
OR LAW ENFORCEMENT  
OFFICER \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_